



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



Linda S. Adams
Agency Secretary

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: LB Nye
Chief, TMDLs and Standards

DATE: December 14, 2006

SUBJECT: Notice of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting for a proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) to establish a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Bacteria at Kiddie (Channel Islands Harbor Beach), Hobie, and Harbor Cove (Peninsula) Beach

Please take notice that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) will hold a CEQA Scoping Meeting pursuant to California Public Resources Code section 21083.9 to receive comments on the appropriate scope and content of the substitute environmental documents supporting a Basin Plan amendment that would establish a new Bacteria TMDL and implementation plans. The substitute environmental documents will be prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.5, and the State Water Resources Control Board's regulations related to its Certified Regulatory Program. (See 23 Cal. Code Regs. §3775 et seq.) The substitute environmental documents are intended to serve as planning level environmental documents, consistent with Public Resources Code section 21159.

BACKGROUND

Kiddie, Hobie, and Harbor Cove Beach have historically experienced elevated levels of bacteria in excess of Bacterial Water Quality Objectives for REC-1 beneficial use listed in the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses of water bodies, establishes water quality objectives for the protection of these beneficial uses, and outlines a plan of implementation for maintaining and enhancing water quality. The proposed amendment would incorporate into the Basin Plan a TMDL to reduce bacteria at Kiddie, Hobie, and Harbor Cove Beach.

The Regional Board proposes to implement the bacteria objectives set to protect water contact recreation (REC-1) using the 'reference system/anti-degradation approach.' This approach recognizes that there are natural sources of bacteria that may cause or contribute to exceedances of the single sample objectives. The Regional Board's intent in implementing the bacteria objectives using a 'reference system/anti-degradation approach' is to ensure that bacteriological water quality is at least as good as that of a reference site and that no degradation of existing bacteriological water quality is permitted where existing bacteriological water quality is better than

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that of a reference site. This approach is consistent with state and federal anti-degradation policies (State Board Resolution No. 68-16 and 40 CFR 131.12), while acknowledging that it is not the intent of the Regional Board to require marine water quality in excess of natural levels. While treatment or diversion of natural sources may fully address the impairment of the water contact recreation beneficial use, such an approach may adversely affect valuable aquatic life and wildlife beneficial uses in the Region.

The Regional Board's goal in incorporating the above-mentioned TMDL is to reduce the risk of illness associated with swimming in marine waters in excess of Bacterial Water Quality Objectives. Swimming in waters with elevated bacteria densities has long been associated with adverse health effects. Local and national epidemiological studies indicate that there is a causal relationship between adverse health effects, such as gastroenteritis and upper respiratory illness, and recreational water quality, as measured by bacteria indicator densities.

The purpose of this meeting is to scope the foreseeable means of compliance and to determine if those means would result in significant adverse impacts to the environment. A number of best management practices have been implemented to help reduce bacterial exceedance levels at the Channel Islands Harbor Beaches and will contribute to compliance with this TMDL.

Interested persons are specifically requested to provide the following information.

- The reasonably foreseeable methods of compliance with the Bacteria TMDL for themselves or other responsible parties.
- The reasonably foreseeable, significant, adverse environmental impacts associated with listed means of compliance.
- Specific evidence supporting that such impacts are reasonably foreseeable, and describing the magnitude (significance level) of the impacts.
- Reasonable alternative means of compliance resulting in less significant, adverse environmental impacts.
- Reasonable mitigation measures that would minimize any unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts associated with listed means of compliance.

(See Public Resources Code section 21159)

The proposed information and resulting analysis will be incorporated into the Draft Substitute Environmental Document.

For reference, recent Beach Bacterial TMDLs developed by the Regional Board staff, include the Los Angeles Harbor Bacteria TMDL (Inner Cabrillo Beach and Main Ship Channel), the Marina del Rey Harbor Mothers' Beach and Back Basins Bacteria TMDL, and the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Dry Weather and Wet Weather Bacteria TMDL which is posted on the Regional Board's web page. The web address for Bacterial TMDLs is <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/meetings/tmdl/tmdl.html>

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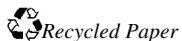
The CEQA Scoping Meeting will be held at:

**9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 10, 2007
Ventura Government Center
Hall of Administration Building
Multi-Purpose Room
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009-1260**

Please contact Man Voong at (213) 576-6808 if you have any questions regarding this matter. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of any persons known to you who would be interested in this matter.

cc: Michael Levy, Office of Chief Counsel, State Water Resources Control Board

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